

Minutes of First Quarter Research Team Meeting



Produced by: Hamid Seidu, Fuseini Abdulai and Ismail Mahama

Venue: SARI Conference Hall, Wa.

Date: 24th March, 2016

**BACKGROUND**

Africa RISING project in Ghana regional research team meetings is a platform created for interaction among work research activity leaders, farmer based organizations (FBOs) and other partners to promote integrated approach for implementing project activities.

The first quarter research team meeting was held on 24th March, 2016 at the SARI conference hall in Wa. Participants include farmer based organizations (FBO) members from all the intervention communities, Regional and district directors of agriculture, research for development (R4D) platform members, district nutrition officers and women in agricultural development (WIAD) officers and other stakeholders.

**Meeting objectives**

To discuss research findings of the 2015 season and the way forward

**Meeting process**

The meeting started at 09:30am with a prayer and self-introduction of participants.

Mary welcome all participants to the meeting, she expressed her gratitude to all participants for making it to the meeting in spite of the short notice. She also implored all participants to not be bashful to speak up as the meeting was for all to discuss the findings of 2015 project activities in the region.

The lead farmers were the first to share with the house their findings s on the 2015 activities carried out in their communities. A summary of their findings are as follows.

* Increase in crop yield from half (50kg) bag to five (500kg) bags of maize from their up scaling fields.
* Vigorous vegetative growth of soybean (Jenguma). The plants on the other had could not pod due to the short duration of the rains. This observation was made at Nyagli.
* Cowpea flower abortion more prominent on those with one sprays at Gyilli.
* Poor germination of obatanpa maize variety in Guo.
* Farmers also said though extension officers were not sufficient those available did extremely well

**Comments**

The Regional Director of Agriculture (Joseph Faalong) probed further as to why the soybean crop only grew vegetative. Two possible causes were identified, either the variety is a long duration oneor seeds were sown on lands that are too fertile. It was realized that seeds being a long duration one was not the problem as maize seeds had the same duration too. Farmers confirmed that lands used for sowing soybeans were previously used to cultivate maize thus too much fertilizer or farmyard manure in the soil, was really the problem.

Also farmers asked for seasonal calendar from the Meteorological service as this will enhance their farming activities. Farmers were again advised to avoid the use of Kraals to cultivate soybean.

A lead farmer from Zanko in the Wa West district pointed out that most farmers do not want to go into soybean farming because they do not know how to utilize soybean. District director of Agric added that farmers were sluggish in adopting technologies and destruction of demonstration fields by livestock was a major challenge and so he suggested that demonstration fields should be fenced.

Mary gave a presentation on results of the demonstration fields in all the communities. A summary of the presentation is in the table below;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Experiment title | Results |
| Cowpea varietal and spraying regime | * Spraying of cowpea thrice (3 times) may be used to increase yield of cowpea in Upper west. * Apagbaala variety may be promoted for improved cowpea grain production. * Padituya may be used for fodder production. |
| Phosphorus fertilizer rates on yield of groundnut | * Phosphorus rates were not significant on groundnut yield. * the Oblo and Yenyawoso varieties had better yields. * Manipinta may be used for fodder yield production of groundnut in upper West. |
| Nitrogen fertilizer rate effect on yield of improved maize varieties | * Nitrogen rates did not significantly affect yield in 2016. * maize variety significantly affected grain and stover * Extra-early (TZEE W STR QPM C0) maize variety may be used due to erratic nature and short |
| Yield of Maize-Roselle intercrop as influenced by plant density | * Land equivalent ratio for all intercrops were greater than 1 indicating better productivity than the pure stands * Intercropping maize and roselle at 1MR(67000 plants/ha),: 1RR (29600 plants/ha), density may be used to increase productivity of maize-roselle intercropping. |
| Integrated soil fertility management in soybean production. | * Year by variety by ISFM interaction was significant on grain and fodder yield. * Year and variety affected only fodder yield * jenguma fertilized with TSP at 60 kg/ha had significant increase grain and fodder yield |
| Yield of Maize-Okra intercrop as influenced by plant density | * Land equivalent ratio for all intercrops were greater than 1 indicating better productivity than the pure stands. * Intercropping maize and okra at 2MH: 2KR density may be used to increase productivity of maize-okra intercropping |
| Maize – Legume strip cropping systems | Intercropping maize and legume at 2M (two rows of maize: 4C (four rows of cowpea) may be used to increase productivity of maize-legume system in upper West. |

* She mentioned that working with organized farmers groups promotes effective dissemination of technologies to farmers.
* It was also realized that involvement of farmers in on-farm demonstration enhances farmers’ understanding of technologies.

**Brief on 2015 up scaling and baby trial and discussion of MoFA activities**

Mr. David K. Waawula ( MoFA director, Nadowli) was the first to report on activities for the year 2015. He gave an average yield per acreage realized from the farmers. Below is a table outlining the yield realized from the farmers’ field.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Community | Number of farmers of farmers assessed | Type of Trial | Commodity | Average Yield (Kg  /Acre) |
| Goli | 5 | maize- cowpea strip | maize | 240 |
| cowpea | 108 |
| 4 | maize-soybean strip | maize | 150 |
| soybean | 110 |
| 5 | maize-cowpea rotation | maize | 200 |
| cowpea | 100 |
| Nator-Duori | 3 | maize-cowpea strip | maize | 320 |
| cowpea | 134 |
| 5 | maize-soybean rotation | maize | 134 |
| soybean | 100 |
| 9 | maize cowpea rotation | maize | 120 |
| cowpea | 64 |
| Papu | 2 | maize-cowpea strip | maize | 300 |
| cowpea | 80 |
| 5 | maize baby | maize | 300 |
| 8 | maize-soybean rotation | maize | 260 |
| soybean | 150 |
| 1 | maize-cowpea rotation | cowpea | 88 |
| soybean | 84 |
| Goriyiri | 3 | maize-cowpea strip | maize | 200 |
|  |  | cowpea | 80 |
| 5 | maize-soybean rotation | maize | 400 |
| soybean | 100 |
| 3 | maize-cowpea rotation | maize | 440 |
| cowpea | 180 |
| Gyilli | 2 | maize-cowpea strip | maize | 80 |
| cowpea | 80 |
| 5 | maize-soybean strip | maize | 460 |
| soybean | 120 |
| 4 | maize-soybean rotation | maize | 260 |
| soybean | 150 |
| 8 | maize-cowpea rotation | maize | 200 |
| cowpea | 160 |

He also convened a meeting with the farmers in the intervention communities to ascertain the level of livestock activities in the communities. Livestock kept by farmers included local fowls, guinea fowls, goats and sheep. In all the communities visited it was realized that 94% of the men had either of the above mentioned animals whiles 69% of the women also held at least one or more of the above mentioned animals.

The WIAD officer for Nadowli (Florence) spoke on the nutrition activities carried out in the intervention communities.she together with the Ghana Health service Staff had trained the women groups on how to use soybeans to prepare several dishes among them are, tombrowm, khebab, soymilk, fufu, soups and stew, kosey, banku, kali, sewale and tubani all of which are local dishes. She said the training was first organized for the Lead women at the district Level and was replicated in all intervention communities.

In the Wa West district the district director of agric reported that women groups in the 5 communities under the Africa RISING project were trained on food fortification and how to identify malnourished children. The representative from the Ghana Health service said various nutritional data has been taken from 100 babies. Out of that number 80 babies were normal, 15 were under weight and 5 were severely malnourished.

**R4D activities and discussion.**

Roger Anyuater the organizer for Wa West R4D platform made the hose aware that they have done community visits in all the intervention communities and a summary of the outcome are as follows

* Termites infestation
* Striga infestations
* Some cowpea seeds(zaayura) performed poorly
* Poor soybean germination
* Late planting due to erratic nature of rainfall.
* Farmers prefer extra early maize varieties.
* Groundnut pod could not fill due to the short duration of the rain

Suggested solutions

* Soils rich in nitrogen should be avoided by soybean farmers
* Soils analysis report must be shared with farmers.
* Regular field days should be organized.
* Technology parks should be fenced in all communities to curtail the incidence of animal destruction

The Nadowli R4D Platform chairman David, also outlined the following;

* Meetings have been held in all five communities.
* Two (2) of the communities platforms have opened an account.
* 1 community is almost finished with the drafting of their constitution
* Planning to educate farmers on climate change and soil water management.

**Plan of activities for 2016**

The house agreed on the following activities to be carried on as we start the cropping season.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **April** | **May** | **June** | **July** | **responsibility** |
| Land preparation |  |  |  |  | FBOs and IITA |
| Education of soybean processing |  |  |  |  | WIAD and Ghana Health |
| Anthropometric Data |  |  |  |  | Ghana Health |
| Input Delivery |  |  |  |  | IITA |

Message from partners;

Lukeman from Antika Company Ltd. expressed gratitude to IITA for their intervention. He said they supplied some seeds and fertilizer to project and that improve their income. He further mentioned that they have in stock certified seeds of most improved cereals and legumes, insecticides, threshers and seed cleaners to assist farmers for their operations.

Issifu a representative from CARD said farmers must not shy away from soybean cultivation. He further mentioned that a lot have been carried out in the Wa West district by Great Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW) a Non-Governmental organization on soy bean and that has improve livelihood of most women who partook in those activities.

**Conclusion**

Mary thanked all participants and for sharing their findings with members present and wish them safe travel as they return to their destinations.







